

By kind permission of Colonel D. G. Anderson, the Regimental Band will play in the Public Gardens, on Sunday, the 16th instant, from 3.30 till 5 p.m. The following will be the programme:—

March "Pleasure" Campbell.
Overture "The Merry Widow" Schubert.
Selection "Golden Legend" Sullivan.
Valse "Tyranny" Bortoloni.
Selection "The Fisherman" Sullivan.
Valse "Española" Walstein.

Russia's telegram about Russia's action with regard to the opening up of the Karun river is certainly not very explicit. If Russia is desirous of avoiding a conflict with England, she certainly has taken strange means to secure that end. A more consistent rendering of the telegram would be—Russia, desirous of thwarting England and desirous of fomenting a quarrel, has instructed her agent at Meshed to send a threatening letter to the Shah protesting against the opening of the river Karun to trade and navigation. That Russia should feel jealous of the concession is very natural. She has been endeavouring to gain the commanding influence over Persia, with the probable object of securing some day an outlet on the sea for her immense Asiatic possessions, now shut in on all sides except towards the Arctic Ocean and on the Eastern shores of Siberia. The opening up of the Karun river would doubtless regard as a measure tending to strengthen England's influence over the South of Persia and to checkmate her advance towards the sea. The Karun river enters the head of the Persian Gulf not far from the mouths of the Tigris and Euphrates, and waters through its tributaries, a large part of the South West of Persia. It is, in fact, almost the only important water-course of Persia entering the Persian Gulf. English trade and English influence would naturally benefit most by the opening of such a river, and the concession may be looked upon as a successful coup by Sir H. Drummond Wolff, who, it was openly said at the time of his appointment, was sent to Tehran to counteract the growing influence of Russia. After the open manner in which Lord Salisbury acknowledged the concession and praised the Shah for his enlightened policy, he cannot now creditably draw back because of the misuses of Russia. With the imperfect information supplied by Russia's telegram it is impossible to judge of the actual position of affairs. We can only hazard the suggestion that, if there is any truth in the rumour, the action of the Consul will be disclaimed by the Czar, but that nevertheless Russia will set herself quietly to undermine as much as possible the effects of the concession.

We received a visit to-day from Mr. Quong Tart, whose arrival by the *Guthrie* we noticed the other day. He says he has come to China partly on pleasure—to visit his ancestral home in Canton—and partly for the purpose of ascertaining the feeling with regard to the treatment of the Chinese in Australia. His friends, the Commissioners, who visited Australia last year and for services to whom he received a Mandarin's button of the fifth rank, have gone north, and he is not sure of how he will be received in Canton. He expects, however, to have an audience with the Viceroy. His views on the great Chinese question are pretty well known. He fully recognises the danger of Australia being swamped by Chinese, but says there is not only a field but a need for a certain number of Chinese. He would keep the proportion much the same as at present, and says that proportion might be assimilated. The European character of the Colonies would thus be fully maintained. He would not have the Chinese exiled by a poll-tax, which he says is a system of squeezing as bad as any practiced in China, but would admit only so many to the tonnage of a steamer, the number perhaps varying according to the pressure or slackness of emigration. All the Australian Colonies ought to have the same law in this respect, so as to enable them to do away with the prohibition now imposed on Chinese of travelling from one Colony to another—a measure which is a disgrace to civilisation. The Chinese, he maintains, if properly treated, are capable of becoming as good citizens as any other race. The merchant class in Australia are gradually adopting European customs, and even the working classes, he says, could be greatly improved if the Government enforced sanitary laws prohibiting gambling and opium smoking. Besides the labourers would thus be driven to demand higher wages and the competition with European workmen would not be so severe. His crusade against the two evils of gambling and opium-smoking had raised, he said, a good deal of ill-feeling against him, but the Chinese were now beginning to see that he was really their best friend, and that by the negligent, dirty habits fostered by opium-smoking they had lost standing in the sight of the people of Australia. He deprecates interference either by England or China with Australia in the settlement of this question, and he is confident that if a fairer policy is adopted a satisfactory arrangement will soon be come to. All that he wishes to do is to get influence exercised quietly to obtain the amendment in the sense he indicates, of the recent public laws. He says he has been very well received by the Chinese of this Colony, high and low, who have offered to do all they can to forward his mission. He also speaks highly of the reception he got from the authorities in Queensland, Northern Territory, and at all the points he touched in Australia.

A neat-collector named Leung Aye in the employ of Inspector Lysaght of the Naval Yard, was charged before Mr. Pollock this morning with embezzling \$30.80. It appeared that defendant had collected this amount in rent on behalf of his employer the other day and appropriated it to his own use. He had previously given notice of leaving Mr. Lysaght's service in which he had been for two years. His Worship found the charge proved and sentenced the prisoner to three months' hard labour.

A married woman named Chan Awong was brought before Mr. Pollock, in the Police Court to-day, charged with attempting to commit suicide. A Chinese constable who was on duty at Praya West this morning said he saw the woman about seven o'clock trying to drown herself in the harbour. She was floating face downwards in about three feet of water, and was still conscious when taken out. In reply to the Magistrate, the woman said she wanted to die because she was unhappy. She had no means of subsistence. Her husband had been away in Australia for three years, and she had no body to depend on. She worked as a needle-woman, but was unable to earn enough to keep her. She had asked her husband's uncle, a godson-keeper at Wanchai, for assistance, but he refused. His Worship sent her with a note to the Registrar General, asking him to inquire into the case.

We observed in a small Australian paper received by last mail a telegram to the following effect: 'The Irish Nonconformists have given a banquet to Lord Salisbury and Hartington, at which Lord Salisbury ridiculed the idea of Imperial Federation.' We did not reproduce this telegram, as it was evident, and ought to have been so to any one following the course of events, that this was but a bad summary of a fuller telegram wired to India, which was reproduced in the Hongkong papers a few days before. This fuller telegram ran as follows:—

London, Nov. 15.—At a banquet given at the Hotel Metropole last night, an address signed by 860 dissenting ministers in Ireland was presented to Lord Salisbury and Hartington to counteract the Home Rule address presented to Mr. Gladstone by the English dissenters. Lord Salisbury in reply ridiculed the idea that the granting of autonomy to Ireland would pave the way to the Federation of the Empire, and said that the surrender by the English to Ireland would be announcing to the world that there was nothing to fear from English resistance. The difference is of course manifest, and we were not a little astonished to find our morning contemporary gravely dilating in a leading article to-day about Lord Salisbury having ridiculed Imperial Federation. The very absurdity of such a statement ought to have rendered any one sceptical of its being true, even although there was no direct proof, as existed in this case, of its being erroneous. Lord Salisbury may not approve of all the projects of the Federalists, but it is almost impossible to conceive that he would ridicule the movement, which, if it is not effecting altogether the end desired by its promoters, is certainly doing good in quickening the interest taken by the several members in the common weal of the Empire.

The following items of news are from the *Comercio*:—

Sr. Don Antonio Alcalá Galiano y Miranda has been appointed Spanish Consul at Amoy, vice Sr. Don Tomas Ortuno. The purchase of the steamers *Dajala* and *Parava* by firms in Manila has been spoken of. The crusade against stray dogs in Manila continues; during the last 72 hours, says the *Comercio* of the 10th instant, 263 dogs fell victims to the destructive action of strychnine, which the Police distributed with liberality to the canine race in the streets.

The Yellow Jacket, the most coveted form of reward for military service, is to be conferred on only one official in connection with the quelling of the recent Formosan disturbances, on Taoist Lin Yin-tang, in whom the Governor has great confidence. He was at Tientsin on the occasion of the birthday fête of the Governor's lady, when he received sudden orders to start for Changha with a force and relieve the beleaguered town, which orders he carried out with extraordinary promptitude and courage. The Governor has detached the official doctor, to attend to him, his exertions have brought on an illness, but as 'Heaven preserves the good man,' we dare say he will recover without the aid of medicine.—*Hu Pao*.

VICTORIA REGATTA.

THIRD DAY.

YACHT RACE.—FOR YACHTS OVER 10 TONS. Entrance, \$5. Time for tonnage. Prize, Cup, presented by the Hon. C. P. Chater.

Mr. W. H. Forbes' Yacht *Namoi*.
Mr. W. H. Ray's Yacht *Kathleen*.
Messrs. Polts' and van Buren's Yacht *Ariel*.

This race was on the programme for the first day of the Regatta, but was not finished. The yachts got becalmed behind Stonecutter's Island on the return journey and had to be towed home. It was therefore decided to have the contest fought out to-day. The yachts, setting all their kites, got away at 1.17, with the wind East, blowing with a force of 4, and freshening. Cow-e-chuan mark boat was rounded in the following order:—

Ariel 1.54.45 p.m.
Namoi 1.57.55
Kathleen 1.58.25

The *Namoi* and *Ariel* rounded Chum Hoo mark boat at 2.20.10, the latter far to leeward, the *Kathleen* following at 2.34.31. The *Ariel* and *Kathleen* took the passage inside Stonecutter's Island, Mr. Forbes' yacht standing away for the Hongkong shore. The positions of the boats at the subsequent stages of the race were as follows:—

Flagship Mark.
1 *Ariel* 3.31.00
2 *Namoi* 3.37.35
Kathleen not in it.

Regatta Bay Mark Boat.
2 *Ariel* 3.43.45
2 *Namoi* 3.43.40
Kathleen not in it.

Winning Mark.
1 *Ariel* 4.2.00
2 *Namoi* 4.5.01
3 *Kathleen* 4.13.20

The *Ariel* was thus the winner of the cup.

'FRAGRANT WATERS' MURMUR.

That you cannot expect that, with all the salt water, *cetera*, in my eyes, I can see anything but Canton fairs, open boats, mosquitoes, and yachts for the next few days.

That for the first time in seven years the Clerk of the Weather has been very unkind to the Regatta—possibly owing to the innovations by the worthy astronomical and astrological Doctor at Kowloon, who raises the wind and the waves at his bidding.

That the second day's weather was special. I sent, so that the Y. R. C. (or its 'remains') might feel that they were not altogether forsaken of gods and men. That after all the bother about that prematurely-born *May Blossom*, I was rather disappointed that she was never christened at this festival of the Water Babies.

That I have a shrewd suspicion, if the gallant Major had been properly dealt with—had been reasoned with, instead of being bullied and threatened—the celebrated split in the camp would never have occurred.

That, all the same, I was exceedingly pleased to see the brawny young 'veteran' of a Secretary stroke his countrymen to victory for the Ladies' Purse, and it was a goodly sight to see a 'Rose' presenting the 'Thistle' with the well-earned prize.

That the gallant Major deserved his success in the International, as, with the advent of Haylilar, his crew was just a trifle better than the Scotch.

That the Stewart-Lockhartians would, I fancy, have given the Englishers a much tougher pull for it than they did, had the gun of the Starter not refused to go off, and had the Tartan crew not lost a length by John's bad powder.

That the change made in the English crew was good for the Nationality, but bad for the betters who staked their money on the names printed in the programme.

That it would be better for the betters in future to make their bets, if they must do such things, so that any change in the crew would make it 'bets off'.

That possibly it would be better all round if there were no layers or takers; then there would be no one taken in—but 'humanness et error' so note it be!

That it might perhaps be advisable in future regattas to make the 'International' the first four-oared race on the first day, so that the crews in training would always be the crews in the race.

That, speaking of the Scotch Stroke, I remember listening to the remarks of a distinguished Indian statesman, who was a keen sport and a cultivated scholar as well, in reply to a query about the modern race of competition wallahs:—

'—Your book-worms,' said he, 'give me the man who can stick his pig and face his tiger, to govern a province.'

That in China, as well as in India and elsewhere, we require a combination of the scholarly and athletic qualities, and these appear to be well blended in the Hon. Secretary of the Regatta, who has just completed his valedictory 'pull'.

That the callant who pulled behind him, and their Coach, are a credit to the Land of 'Cakes.'

That what I was delighted that the crews secured the success of the Regatta, the arrangements somehow did not establish any great claim for praise.

That Departmental arrangements ought to be made before the gun for the first race has been fired.

That the V. R. C. Committee might in future charter the *Solent* as Flagship, being one way of getting rid of a nuisance.

That the Officer in charge of that barge ought to have his certificate dealt with for the rockiest way in which he crossed the bows of launches which kept their proper course.

That if some of the launches had been strong

enough, this 'whale' would have stood a good chance of being rammed,—through accident of course.

That perhaps the facts that she was 'the property of Her Majesty the Queen,' and that there were ladies on the bridge, saved him, though they may have made the skipper just a wee bit more flustered than usual, don't you know.

That the rumour that the *Imperieuse* would follow the rowing races yesterday, instead of the *Insolent*, happily proved incorrect. That the *Solent* was found to be quite big enough, especially by people who had to see the rowing through her sides.

That the *Kingsfisher* was certainly more of an ornament and much less of a nuisance than H. M.'s craft.

That there were more surprises all round than could have been wished for, and more 'Potts' than one were capitalized.

That the penetrating Scotch mist of the first day only served to stiffen the canvas of the yachts and mosquitoes for the second day's racing.

That the yachts and the little flyers form the prettiest feature of the Regatta, though 'regatta' originally meant a rowing-boat competition.

I heartily, literally and metaphorically, took the wind out of the sails of the jib while rounding one of the mark boats yesterday, and one of the attendant spirities was heard to make use of an exceedingly nautical expression.

That a very young lady on the Flag-ship yacht was drawing near, to show her the waste of the yachts, and how they put on their stays.

That the mamma's reply, though inaudible, was apparently satisfactory. That, as I have said, there is no room for local politics this.

That one seems to know who saved the necks of the murderers of the old man at Little Hongkong, or why.

That consequently we shall not be long without another case of violence for another Jury to try.

That our Juries here are, as a rule, most intelligent and careful with their verdicts, and it is to be hoped the action of the Executive will not tend to make them less careful.

That the dancing season is upon us, and a correspondent writes:—'Granted that elephants, except in a circus, cannot be taught to dance, the execution of the still might be taught mechanically to distinguish between the music of a Polka or Schottische and the dulcet strains of *Tendress*, and be made to understand not to dance the waltz to the wrong music, to the discomfort of every one, and the destruction of the poetry of motion.'

That I have frequently noted the point alluded to, and have merely to add that it is very bad form indeed to insist upon dancing a waltz when a polka is being played, and very bad taste for a single dancer to insist on the floor when a schottische is being danced, thus throwing all the other dancers into confusion with mad antics.

That to the slow and graceful modern waltz most programmes show a marked preference, and there is no other excuse for the offences above referred to than that of the thoughtlessness.

That I fancy the old-fashioned Mazurka would suit our climate better than the Polka, and the music is infinitely preferable to the eternal 'Drink, puppy, drink' measure, with its jerky periods.

That I see, the *refugee*, the sombre swallow-tail evening costume is again mooted at Home, and plush and frills are once more threatened.

That I was greatly amused at a recent social gathering by seeing a fledgling in the naval uniform gravely present the ticket for his overcoat to one of our oldest residents, who stood staring at his hat and coat in the cloak-room.

That the worthy resident was heard to mutter, 'Confound the youngster, taking me for a waiter: I'll never wear a white tie again.'

That I don't quite see that plush breeches would have improved matters.

BROWNIE.

CHINESE NOTES.

The leading articles that have appeared in the *Kuang Pao* during this week have been, with the exception of one or two, on minor topics of the utmost interest and vital importance bearing as they do on questions which are now the focus of public attention and the cynosure towards which Chinese diplomacy centres. The principal feature in these articles is not so much the view taken by the respective writers on political matters, but the distinct evidence which these opinions bear to the rapid change that is taking place in the Celestial Empire, where newspapers, emigration, the action taken by various Governments in the question of exclusion of Chinese, are gradually stirring up a public opinion which will in course of time become a powerful, and it may be a dangerous, factor in politics, and a voice which will loudly make itself heard in the settlement of not only local but international matters. The first question treated in the *Kuang Pao* of the 10th is Tibet. The writer of this exhaustive article, who is a native of the province of Szechuan, now evokes in all classes a sufficient justification for the detailed account which he gives of the country, the people, the Government, and the Lama hierarchy. Speaking of the Chinese Resident, he mentions in a pompous way how through his incessant hostilities have been suspended, heaping insult upon insult, and how the Tibetans are apt of their own free will to blind themselves to the danger that is imminent, treating every rumour as idle and every word of warning as a fable until the Moscow wolf will come down in earnest.

In the *Kuang Pao* of the 11th is given the substance of the interview of one of the chiefs of the 8th ghalpa Rega with Mr. Denham, Foreign Minister to the King of Siam. The writer of this article is quite exultant that no designs are entertained by the Czar for extension of territory by the annexation or protectorate of Korea. Indeed the who's article proves indubitably now that China and the Chinese, though directly interested, are not of the Hermit Kingdom, are apt of their own free will to blind themselves to the danger that is imminent, treating every rumour as idle and every word of warning as a fable until the Moscow wolf will come down in earnest.

In the *Kuang Pao* of the 12th is given the substance of the interview of one of the chiefs of the 8th ghalpa Rega with Mr. Denham, Foreign Minister to the King of Siam. The writer of this article is quite exultant that no designs are entertained by the Czar for extension of territory by the annexation or protectorate of Korea. Indeed the who's article proves indubitably now that China and the Chinese, though directly interested, are not of the Hermit Kingdom, are apt of their own free will to blind themselves to the danger that is imminent, treating every rumour as idle and every word of warning as a fable until the Moscow wolf will come down in earnest.

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In the *Kuang Pao* of the 16th is given the substance of the interview of one of the chiefs of the 8th ghalpa Rega with Mr. Denham, Foreign Minister to the King of Siam. The writer of this article is quite exultant that no designs are entertained by the Czar for extension of territory by the annexation or protectorate of Korea. Indeed the who's article proves indubitably now that China and the Chinese, though directly interested, are not of the Hermit Kingdom, are apt of their own free will to blind themselves to the danger that is imminent, treating every rumour as idle and every word of warning as a fable until the Moscow wolf will come down in earnest.

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In the *Kuang Pao* of the 22nd is given the substance of the interview of one of the chiefs of the 8th ghalpa Rega with Mr. Denham, Foreign Minister to the King of Siam. The writer of this article is quite exultant that no designs are entertained by the Czar for extension of territory by the annexation or protectorate of Korea. Indeed the who's article proves indubitably now that China and the Chinese, though directly interested, are not of the Hermit Kingdom, are apt of their own free will to blind themselves to the danger that is imminent, treating every rumour as idle and every word of warning as a fable until the Moscow wolf will come down in earnest.

of the secret Treaty between Korea and Russia, and deprecates that Russian designs should have so soon successfully been accomplished. It has been, he goes on to show, the aim of Japan and Russia from years gone by to absorb the Hermit Kingdom, and since the country has been thrown open to foreigners, the representatives of these two countries have seized every opportunity to promote their designs and to cause trouble in the hope of bringing about the object in view. China, whose anxiety Korea has for years passed on to her, has consistently endeavoured to advise her impetuous King and to save him from imposition and trouble. The empty promises so volubly made, the vain aspirations of a puffed up ambition, the false advice gratuitously given by so-called friends, and what is more by men who should have had Korea's interests at heart, had the baneful result of undermining the king's loyalty, and deaf and blind to duty and right, he has recklessly concluded a secret Treaty with a country whose aim is to obtain protection, a Treaty which literally amounts to a cession, as privileges are exclusively conceded to Russia. The result will soon, the writer says with a sigh, become quite apparent, and then it will be too late for any action except war. Alas, he exclaims, that people are so false, mercenary and unreliable. Look at the men sent over by China to Korea as Foreign advisors, men who should have had a sense of honour and honesty, who should have shown their gratitude to the country in whose employ they were, by which they were so liberally paid, by which they were so highly respected, and these men whose duty should have been to keep Korea in the right track, by hypocritical ambiguities, by false assurances, when taxed with duplicity, they have betrayed their trust and given over Korea into the hands of Russia. He concludes by saying that China's dependencies have been snatched on all sides, and this Treaty, if carried out, will practically estrange Korea. There remains therefore for China one only opportunity to exert herself, to shake herself up and endeavour to resume her prestige.

A CHINESE ACCOUNT OF TIBET.

(Translated from the *Chien-sei Mail*.)

A traveller from Tibet asks us to record what he saw and heard there. He informs us Tibet is designated Buddha's country, and that in it there are lofty, cloud-piercing, galleries of precious things and buildings of jade from which the sound of Pali talks and the ringing of bells flow in harmony through forests and valleys. In one part called Poshieh there grows the tree of perennial spring and in another part is the heaven of perpetual youth. The country was called Tufan from the time of the Tang dynasty to the Ming dynasty, after which it was called U See Tsang. If you go from Chingtu-fu in Kansuh, by Tsinan, after travelling over 5,100 li, you will reach a post station in Anterior Tibet named Futsien (Lassa), where there is an Imperial Resident to attend to trade, and an important military garrison. In this place are the Tachow, Sinochow, Palah, and Phepang temples, where the Dalai-lama is enthroned and where he strolls about and enjoys himself. These temples are palatial in size and very beautiful with the dazzling splendour of gold and jade. From Anterior Tibet to Chaphulu in Ulterior Tibet is over 900 li. There are to be seen the Jangchung, Ningwang and Kiehpang temples, where the Banchin-orden is enthroned. There the writing is all in Pali and is interpreted according to the Pali sound. There also a nine-storied pagoda, which contains an image of Buddha looking grave and stern amongst the seven precious things, towers high into the air. These temples, which are surrounded by fragrant olive trees and grape vines planted and trained to intertwine and make a deep shade, contain strange things from foreign lands. The people of Ulterior Tibet reverently serve the Banchin-lama in a similar way to which those of Anterior Tibet do the Dalai-lama. The common belief is that the Banchin-lama is a re-bodiment of Kinkang obtained after over ten ages employed in cultivating wisdom, perfecting himself, keeping of precepts, renewing and purifying the heart, thoroughly mastering the religious canons, and abstaining from all dissipation. All who study Lamaism in a Banchin place must take the vow to perpetuate correct teaching. The Dalai-lama and the Banchin-lama are both able to foretell births and deaths and past and future events, and are also able to solve all doubts and difficulties of fortune or misfortune. If a Dalai-lama dies and is afterwards reborn into the world the Banchin-lama records the event in his rules and allows the tidings to be spread forth in the great teaching, and the Dalai-lama does the same for a Banchin-lama in a similar case. There is consequently a mutual proclaiming and receiving of religious chiefs. Among the people of the capital there are numerous chasses who all honour and worship Buddha in conformity with the ceremony of Lamaism. Beneath the Dalai and Banchin-lamas there are the great Uta and Kohks and assistant Uta and assistant Kohks; there are also the Taichas and Kohpus of various kinds who attend to the distribution of money and rations to the troops, the punishment of crime and all such matters. Over these there is a supervisor, who, when a vacancy occurs, is selected by the Chinese Resident in council with the Dalai-lama and Banchin-lama. The rule is that only a man of ability from a family of position can be chosen, and for him the common people are ready to die; they will fight for him regardless of death, and all slain in battle are honoured by the people with offerings of sweet-scented flowers. Their ceremonial resembles those of Homan. They salute a Chinese officer by taking off their hats and throwing out their tongues three times; the Dalai-lama, Banchin-lama and the supervisor are saluted in the same manner. The climate is mild throughout the four seasons and resembles the weather of China in Spring and Autumn, but there is no rainy season, nor fixed periods of wind and

thunder. It is hot in the plains and cold in the high regions; the people say the climate differs every ten li, but it does not appear to differ much from that of the ports in the Southern Ocean. The punishments are very severe. No matter whether the crime be grave or trivial, the master of the house, all offenders, when caught, are tied up in a deck room with all their limbs bound and kept there until dragged out for trial, when if the crime be robbery or murder there is no distinction made between the chief and the followers. Both are sentenced to death, which is carried out by binding the criminal to a pillar and shooting at him with muskets and bows in a contest for drink; by taking him to a cave awarming with scorpions at Kuluhi and blowing the scorpions at stinging him; or by handing him over to be divided and eaten by the savages of the U country. In marriage the wife is chosen of suitable age and looks from a family of equal rank with the husband. They put their dead in bags made of hides, which they suspend for seven days from the ridge poles of their dwellings while Lama priests chant the litany; afterwards they are carried to mountain peaks where the flesh is cut into thin slices and the wine to the dogs to eat; this is called the earth interment. The bones are pulverized, made into pills about the size of red beans and given to eagles to eat; this is called the sky interment. The sick do not take medicine but are placed in the scorching hot sun, with but a few drops of oil on their bodies. In their market, old Chinese coins and foreign coins with foreign letters are used. The silver silk and satins are highly prized. The people are of a gentle disposition, not proud, strong, or energetic, and seem to be easily ruled by a few of former dynasties, finding them inconsistent in their allegiance, thought them a misfortune to the frontier, and consequently only tyrannical and over destroyed them. The rulers of our present dynasty were the first to treat them with honesty and sincerity and thus brought them under the civilizing influence of that virtue and on-justice which reads to and gladdens other lands. Speaking in a general way the country of the two Tibets is similar. Recently the inhabitants have been almost annihilated by a war with India, but happily the high Imperial Minister, Shing Chuh Shun, has gone forth to restore harmony. Still, although at present there is a cessation of fighting, it is not known how it will end. The West looks with anxiety across the frontier. It is enough to move kind people to feel for and sigh for them.

CHINESE NATURAL HISTORY.

SOME VERY STRANGE ANIMALS.

There are strange things in the animal world such as are detailed in the 'Shan Hui King,' or 'Hill and River Classic,' and now that there is a talk of establishing Zoological Gardens at Shanghai, says the *Shen Pao*, it may amuse our readers to describe a few of them from tradition, although we cannot say that we vouch for the truth of the description.

Birds.—(1) Hung-tung Hien, in Shanai, there is a woman-bird; it can divest itself of its bird-nature by removing its feathers, become a woman, and be mated to a man. (2) The 'Hui Liu,' or laughing horned owl, which flies at night, and is called day-time; it can incorporate a dead man's soul, and is fond of eating finger-nails, which gives it power over people; therefore people, when they cut their nails, hide the cuttings away. It plays tricks on little children; therefore their clothes may not be left at night, or it will suck the dust into them which will make the child ill. (3) The Fire-quelling bird, which has a screeching cry; drop it on a fire and it will go out at once. (4) The Tiger-eagle, which attacks tigers and leopards; its body is as large as that of an ox, its wings 50 feet long. (5) At Tsinan-shan Chow there is a strange eagle, called bird, a marsh-dweller. At it cries, swarms of mosquitoes issue from its mouth, so they call it 'Wao-mu Niao' (the Mother of Mosquitoes). Fans are made of its wings, which have great virtue in repelling those insects. (6) In Kiangsu and Chekiang there is the 'Feng-chung,' or Flying Broom; a sort of flying squirrel; it beats its wings, and they at once fly after the old bird. A claw of it applied will assist a difficult accouchement. (7) The Stone Swallow, of Yung-chow, Hunan; it flies as a swallow during wind and rain and in fine weather turns to stone and is called 'Feng-chow Shuang-tung,' there is the Oil Squeezing the Oil Squeezing looks like a shrub-like floating on the water; at the end of spring, from its body issues a quantity of oil on the water, honours its name. When killed and pressed, the hunters obtain much useful oil from its body; and when its skin is thrown into the water, it becomes a living bird again.

Beasts.—(1) In Szechuan is a beast like an ape, called the Ma-hwa; when a pretty woman strays by his haunt, he carries her off, makes a wife of her, and treats her to jewellery, furbelows, etc., which he steals for her; and the woman gets so fond of him after a

